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ARMY TALKS

RESTRICTED
ETO - U.S. ARMY



7

NEW YEAR'S DAYS



"Trip flares proved successful as a warning device and did not endanger our own troops."

* * * *

"On patrolling :

1. Do not repeat patrol routes on successive days.
2. German snipers or small patrols sometimes follow our returning patrols to our outposts. Watch out for Krauts coming in behind you.
3. Draws are easy terrain features to follow, but experience has taught us to work on the ridge, or halfway up it, guiding on the draw rather than traveling along its bottom. Jerry usually covers the natural approaches with fire.
4. Patrols working in snow should never leave their lines from an outpost or return directly to one. A German patrol followed our footprints and shot one of our officers at an outpost."



"Every roadblock we have encountered has been booby-trapped. The trap is usually attached to the first object that must be moved and often can be discovered by careful examination. Objects which cannot be thoroughly examined should be pulled out, using a long rope. When pulling the rope, face the object so that flying debris can be seen and dodged."

"We have found it advantageous to make up combat rolls, consisting of blankets, wrapped in a shelter half and tied with a tent rope, for every man in the battalion. These rolls can be dumped on the company position every night and there is no need for each man to find his own roll."

* * * *

"A wounded American soldier was found booby-trapped where he had lain for 72 hours."

* * * *

"German ammunition is frequently booby-trapped, and serious explosions have resulted. Captured ammunition should not be handled except under orders and with proper precautions."



* * * *

"When a pillbox is breached, a round or WP fired into it before the infantry assault is effective. The enemy cannot recover quickly from the effect of the WP, and our troops have time to reach the pillbox."

* * * *

"Each tank must find a solid footing if it is to be left in position for several hours. If this is not done it will freeze to the ground as though it were encased in cement. A strenuous effort to break out will result in tank failure."

* * * *

"German cadet officers' notebooks explain that REAL minefields have the signs written with the letters slanting forward; DUMMY minefields with the letters slanting backwards. Color of signs indicates nothing."



WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED READING THIS COPY OF "ARMY TALKS" — PASS IT ALONG



ARMY TALKS

"The purpose of the program is to give the soldier psychological preparation for combat, and a better realization of the import of every phase of his military training. Emphasis will be placed on combat orientation. The mental and physical conditioning of the enemy, and a proper evaluation of the enemy's weapons and fighting qualities will be stressed. A better understanding of the background of the war, and the soldier's responsibilities in the post-war world will also be developed."

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.

(Extract from letter ETO. 1 August 1944, AG 352/2 OpSS, Subject : Combat Orientation Program).



IT IS THE CUSTOM on New Year's Day to look retrospectively on events and to make resolutions for the new year.

In this issue, Army Talks imagines itself on seven New Year's Days, looking back over the year that has just ended, summarizing the events. Such a review makes a concise history of World War II.

From his own memory, each can contribute the supplement to these accounts; each can fill in the date when the war began for him, when he reached the United Kingdom and France, and all those other important events which may be more real than the war itself.

And each may resolve, at the start of 1945, that the Allied Nations will conclude the German war this year and bring peace again to the world.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1939

SOME STRANGE THINGS happened during the 52 weeks leading up to New Year's morning 1939. In July "Wrong Way" Corrigan took off from Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn and set his Curtiss Robin down in Dublin, without permit or passport.

Storms and floods took a high toll in death and destruction. In the spring 81 people were drowned in Southern California, 31 of them in the Los Angeles area alone. The hurricane which swept the Atlantic coast in September accounted for 553 dead and missing, 100,000 homeless; 9,000 dwellings destroyed, 50,000 damaged; money loss, 500 million dollars.

The natural storms were a spring zephyr compared to the tornado which was brewing over Berlin. Danger warnings went up on March 11, 1938, for anyone who chose to see, when German troops crossed the Austrian border. Two days later Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg was a prisoner of the Nazis and Seyss-Inquart proclaimed the geographical and political union of the two countries. Within a month the Austrian people ratified it by popular vote. The Italian Grand Council approved.

Der Führer Times His Punct

Hitler chose a propitious moment for his blow. A few weeks earlier, Anthony Eden, at odds with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on settlements with Italy and Germany, had resigned as Britain's Foreign Minister. On the same day (20 February) King Carol of Rumania abolished parliamentary government by proclamation and set up a Fascist

state, the Rumanians backing it up by a "vote" of 4,165,193 to 5,313.

But even before the Nazis goose-stepped into Vienna, Hitler had begun his agitation for the Sudetenland, the German-populated rind of Czechoslovakia. By taking Austria, Hitler threatened Czechoslovakia from three sides (see map).

To all appearances he held the high cards; the Non-Axis nations had either to call his bluff or grant his wishes.

Mutual Security

From a strategic standpoint, the German General Staff knew what it was doing. The mutual-security system worked out by France, Poland and Czechoslovakia after World War I was planned to stop Germany should she ever again threaten peace. France would strike east to join Czechoslovak Armies advancing west, the countries being only some 300 miles apart. Poland could isolate East Prussia and march on Berlin, less than 200 miles from the Polish frontier. In a matter of weeks, fighting a three front war, Germany probably could have been split into three or more pieces which could be mopped-up at leisure.

(The first move in the Wehrmacht's counterplan was the occupation, in March 1936, of the demilitarized Rhineland. Taking advantage of a Europe confused by Mussolini's Ethiopian conquest, Hitler, in violation of Germany's sworn word, marched 90,000 troops into the area and immediately began to fortify it. Completion of the West Wall would delay a French attempt to link with Czech forces. The next step was to hamstring Czechoslovakia itself).



This map shows the geography of "mutual security." Located as they were, France, Poland and Czechoslovakia could move in from three directions and quickly cut Germany to pieces should she attempt to upset the peace of Europe. In 1936 France did not oppose the German move into the demilitarized Rhine, and "Mutual security" still had a chance until the Munich Pact. After that, the tables were turned. Germany then could carve up Europe to suit herself.

At Munich Hitler told Chamberlain and Daladier, "Once the problem of the Sudetenland is solved, Germany has no more territorial problem in Europe. We do not want any more Czechs." Despite Soviet assurances to assist Czechoslovakia in the event of a German invasion, Chamberlain and Daladier decided to bargain for peace. A pact was signed 30 September. At 1400 the following day German troops crossed the border; by 10 October the ceded area was completely occupied. No one could say the German General Staff was not prepared.

Czechoslovakia Hamstrung

Exclusive of the USSR, Czechoslovakia had the best equipped army in eastern Europe. But all her frontier forts, her mountain strong-points, and all of her heavy industry were in the Sudetenland. Without that important strip of territory, she could not hope to resist long. The following year was to show how right Hitler was when he said

that Germany has no more territorial "problem" in Europe.

Both Hitler and Mussolini had poured approximately 220,000 troops into Spain to install the Franco dictatorship. They were then able not only to test weapons and tactics, but to threaten France with a two-front war.

On December 6, 1938, France and Germany signed a pact for "pacific and good-neighborly relations". On 14 December the Italian Parliament dissolved, to be succeeded by the Chamber of Fasces and Corporations.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, the Japs were scoring in the "Chinese Incident". By October 25th their drive south from Nanking had reached and overrun Hankow. Four days earlier Japanese troops had occupied Canton, up the river from Hong Kong.

All in all, after looking at the world on New Year's morning of 1939, anyone who thought a bromo would cure the world's headache was a blind optimist.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1940

THE balance sheet for 1939 brought out one fact that couldn't be dismissed — war.

Hostilities had reached the stage where some people were calling it a "phony" war, but anyone who looked at a map of Europe or Asia got little comfort.

Prior to 1939, the eastern provinces of Germany lay like a paper-shell pecan between the jaws of the Czechoslovak-Polish nutcracker. By the end of the year the Germans had corrected that geographical fault, having put the nutcracker principle to work for themselves.

Hitler won his last bloodless victory when he took all of Czechoslovakia. The mission was accomplished almost completely by propaganda, using the old technique of setting various factions to fighting among themselves inside the country. (The Germans planned to conquer the United States by the same method.) Following the resignation of Eduard Benes, who was forced out of office as a result of the Munich pact, Slovakia was induced by Hitler into demanding an independent government — and got it. Ruthenia, another part of the Czechoslovakian nation, asked recognition as Carpatho-Ukraine with an independent government. This remote region thus became the base of Ukrainian agitation inspired from Berlin. The country's unity was destroyed although the various parts continued to function as a federation with a hyphenated name.

Mgr. Joseph Tiso, who had been named premier of Slovakia provoked the final crisis. With the support of the fascist *Hlinka Guards*, he openly demanded separation from Czecho-Slovakia, and the Prague

government deposed him. Tiso sobbed his troubles to Adolf, who summoned the Czech president, Emil Hacha, to Berchtesgaden for a conference. During the interview Hacha fainted twice; at its conclusion Hitler announced "the fate of the Czech people was trustingly placed in the hands of the Fuhrer." Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine declared their independence. Bohemia and Moravia (originally part of Czechoslovakia) became a German protectorate and were promptly occupied by German troops. On 16 March 1939 Czecho-Slovakia to all appearances ceased to exist.

Without a shot being fired, the Germans had destroyed two main pillars of mutual-security in eastern Europe. Poland now found herself the nut in the cracker. A week after incorporating Czecho-Slovakia, the Germans annexed Memel in Lithuania. Western Europe woke with a start.

Hitler in Driver's Seat

Hitler was in high gear. He submitted stiff demands to the Poles regarding Danzig and the Polish Corridor. The British government countered with a pledge of Anglo-French aid to the Poles in case of action threatening Polish independence. The same pledge was extended to Rumania and Greece, and mutual assistance pacts were signed by England, Turkey and France. England and France then sought an alliance with the USSR. Since Poland refused permission for Soviet troops to cross her frontiers to oppose a German attack the negotiations accomplished nothing. On August 23 the German-Russian non-aggression pact was signed at Moscow.



With Czechoslovakia fallen, the German General Staff could then work the squeeze-play on Poland ... and the black tide of German victories begins to spread across the map.

President Roosevelt appealed to the King of Italy, to Hitler and to President Moscicki of Poland, suggesting direct negotiations between Germany and Poland, to settle difficulties by arbitration or conciliation. Poland agreed to conciliation by a third party. Premier Daladier of France also appealed to Hitler, and the British ambassador seconded him. Hitler on 29 August refused to negotiate until his demands on Poland had been met, and called for a Polish representative having authority to discuss terms to appear in Berlin within 24 hours. Two days later the German government published a sixteen-point proposal to Poland, but cut off communications between the countries before the terms could be transmitted. On 1 September the Wehrmacht invaded Poland; on 3 September, 1939, England and France declared war on Germany. Warsaw was in German hands 24 days later.

The Reichstag applauded when, on 10 October, Hitler told them: "I have given expression to our readiness for peace. Germany has no cause for war against the Western powers. They have recklessly provoked a war on the flimsiest grounds. If they reject our readiness for peace, then Germany is determined to take up the battle and fight it out — this way or that."

French troops meanwhile had manned the Maginot Line, backed by British troops who began to arrive in France on 10 September. Operations on the Western Front were limited to patrolling and loud-speaker propaganda across the lines.

In the eastern hemisphere the Japanese occupied the island of Hainan off French Indo-China; annexed the Spratly islands further south, between Indo-China and Borneo; and continued local gains in north China.

The tide was rising.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1941

WHEN THE HORNS and whistles started blowing at midnight 31 December 1940, there was little to celebrate. Over the whole world hung a black cloud of dread. The "phony" war had turned into total war. The German string of successes had put them squarely in position to make good their boast — "Today Germany, tomorrow the whole world."

They held the initiative, and used it. When the Germans overran Denmark and hit Norway, a good deal of talk about "Hitler missing the bus" raised hopes of peace-loving nations for perhaps 36 hours. Great Britain's navy would blast the German troop convoys Norway bound. When the English had to withdraw from the narrow waters of the Skagge-Rak, the world learned the top-heavy advantage of land-based planes over ships. Consolidating the conquest of Norway gave the Germans a sea-route for Scandinavian iron ore; naval bases which threatened

maintenance of the Allied blockade; bomber bases less than 300 miles from Scapa Flow, and within 500 miles of Scotland's industrial areas. In addition, Germany's northern flank was protected.

Hitler then had a choice of objectives. He could strike at Iceland where, if he were successful, he could cut the main lifeline to the "arsenal of democracy." He could carry on an air war of attrition against Great Britain. He could drive northeast into the Baltic states.

One month after the blitz of Norway he unleashed the main show — the drive through the Low Countries and France. The Netherlands resisted five days. King Leopold surrendered the Belgian Army in less than three weeks. The Wehrmacht was across the Meuse at Sedan within two days, had reached the English channel nine days later. After Dunkirk, the panzers turned south, driving the disorganized French Army before them. By



During 1940 the German Army cast its shadow over most of Europe. Hitler made his first big mistake when he failed to knock out England.

16 June, 1940, France was beaten — she had been able to hold out only two weeks longer than Poland.

The Germans then held an Atlantic front stretching from the Bay of Biscay to the Barents Sea. German submarines could prey on Allied shipping from a dozen new bases. German ships could put to sea from widely scattered ports with a better-than-even chance of successfully running the blockade.

Why Hitler did not immediately invade England is not yet officially known. The fall of Great Britain would have ended the war on the Western Front. It would cut Russia from western assistance. It would have isolated British forces in the Mediterranean and Africa.

The reason most experts assign for Hitler's failure to follow-through was his belief that the big part of the job could be accomplished from the air. The first step was to win air superiority, so beginning 8 August a powerful armada set out to blast the RAF from the skies. By the first week in September losses

were beginning to bleed the Luftwaffe white, running as high as four-to-one. After the raid of 15 September, when 37 percent of its planes failed to return, the Luftwaffe had to admit that the RAF was still a potent force. The known total of German aircraft destroyed stood at 2375 on 31 October.

Coventry was mercilessly bombed the night of 14 November and London was showered with incendiaries during December. The British saw it through. Thereafter bombing raids tapered off.

That was the one bright spot in the year.

On the other side of the globe the Japs attacked Dong Dang, French Indo-China border town, 20 September. Previously colonial authorities under Vichy control had "recognized the special requirements of Japanese troops in China", had cut off the flow of munitions through Indo-China to Chungking, had handed eight million dollars' worth of Chinese supplies to the Japs. Two days after the Dong Dang attack, the Vichy French handed the country itself over to the Japs. Thailand, next door, promptly bowed before the Rising Sun.

On 27 September the Axis set up shop, the original partners being Germany, Italy and Japan, other stockholders including Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Slovakia.

On 16 October, US Secretary of War Stimson, blindfolded, drew from a glass bowl a slip of paper numbered 158. All over the United States men began receiving letters that began: "From the President of the United States, Greetings..." The first peace-time draft in US history began drawing civilians from farms, factories and offices.

Time was running out.



Japan prepares its world-wallop.



Preparations complete, Jap ships and planes leave Nippon for the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor at about the same date "peace" envoys set sail for the U.S. Hitler's armies were rolling through Russia. To the sons of the Rising Sun, the moment forecast by the Tanaka Memorial had come.

By December Hitler had not yet reached Moscow, but he was now committed with his "honorary Aryan" ally — Japan — and promptly declared war on the U.S. Italy followed suit. The Axis octopus was poised to reach out and seize the world.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1942

THE HORNS were noisy as 1941 limped to its finale; but few people had their hearts in the celebration.

The US had been drawn into war by overpowering force of events centering in Berlin. Those who were willing to look facts straight in the face saw that only several miracles would save us.

Hitler held practical control of the European continent in his fist. His armies had penetrated the USSR to a depth of 600 miles, had occupied territory twice the size of 1935 Germany. In North Africa, Rommel

had withdrawn westward from Tobruk but had demonstrated his ability to cross the Egyptian frontier and, with reinforcements, could probably do it again, driving all the way to the Suez canal.

Elements of our Pacific fleet rested their twisted wreckage on the bottom of Pearl Harbor. The Japs had landed on Luzon, had occupied the foreign concessions in China. Hong Kong had fallen on Christmas Day. Against clever strategy and aggressive tactics, little stood between the Axis and world domination.

Hitler was in position to cut

Great Britain's line of communications at Alexandria and strangle her with submarine warfare, which daily was building a staggering sum of sinkings in the Atlantic. With the British Isles out of the fight, he could throw a double-pronged attack at the United States, the northern spearhead routed through Iceland, the southern from Dakar and proceeding up the "bulge" of Brazil.

In the Far East, the fall of the Philippines was a foregone conclusion. Guam and Wake Island were in Jap hands. Our Hawaiian base was a shambles. The Japs seemed primed for a triple-threat blow at the west coast of the United

States, striking from the North via the Aleutians... frontally at the Golden Gate... from the South by way of the west coast of South America and Panama (thereby denying the Pacific to any naval forces the US might be able to spare from the Atlantic.)

Japanese "fishermen" had painstakingly charted our coastal waters, Jap "colonists" in South America had built secret air fields and strips, even invasion maps had been printed.

Sweeping west, a Jap spearhead could link up in India with a German drive through the Near East; the Soviets would then be cut off from the rest of the world.



in the summer of 1942 the Wehrmacht held more ground than it ever had before — or ever would again

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1943

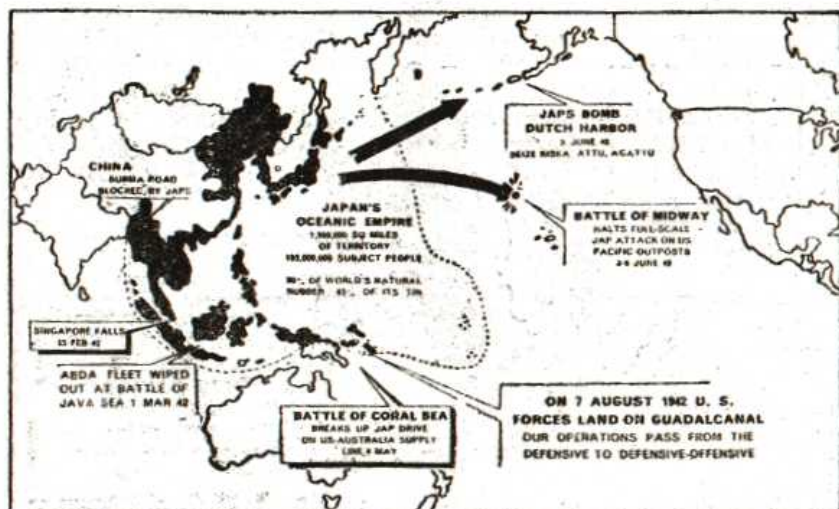
LOW CLOUDS, dark and ugly, continued to close-in the world on the first day of forty-three. But a few rifts streaked the overcast, the wind had changed direction, and around the edges was a dim light.

England had grimly held on during the Battle of Britain; the Dieppe raid had been a gallant, if costly operation, proving that bold troops could, with Naval help, be landed in France; Rommel's tanks had driven Empire troops back across Libya, across Egypt, to the Alexandrian approaches.

In the Pacific the Japs were firmly entrenched in a line of island bastions from the fog-shrouded Kuriles to the Ellice and Solomon groups below the equator. The Battle of the Java Sea saw practically the entire ABDA (American-British-Dutch-Australian) fleet wiped out, only four US destroyers escaping. Singapore, Britain's great naval base

at the crossroads of the East, fell 15 February, 1942. By the end of April the Japs had conquered a million and a half square miles of land, claimed sovereignty over 125 million additional people, had broken into the Indian ocean, invaded Burma, sealed off the Burma Road, and were knocking on Australia's northern gate. Two of the rich prizes, the Netherlands East Indies and Malaya, supplied nearly 90 percent of the world's natural rubber, 65 percent of its tin. Some 400,000 troops were all that had been required; almost an equal number were garrisoned along the border between Manchuria and Siberia, keeping an eye on the Soviets.

As for the latter, the world held its breath while one German spear-head knifed deep into the Caucasus toward the oil wells of Baku, and another battered its way into the streets of Stalingrad.



The Japs, too, made their big bid in the summer of 1942 — but couldn't back it up with trumps

But midway in the year, the United Nations began to enter a few credit entries in the ledger. In the spring the Japs had begun to concentrate invasion forces at Lae, Salamaua and Rabaul for an attack on New Hebrides and New Caledonia. Its purpose was to cut the US-Australian supply line. That drive was stopped during the first naval battle in history fought entirely by air — the Battle of the Coral Sea. A month later, on 3-6 June, 1942, a Jap invasion force advancing on the Hawaiian islands was riddled and put to flight at the Battle of Midway. It is now clear beyond doubt that the Japs planned to overrun our continental outposts of Hawaii and Dutch Harbor, Alaska. The success of the northern prong of the attack was limited to footholds on Kiska, Attu and Agattu in the Aleutians.

In August US Marines landed on Guadalcanal and war in the Pacific had passed from the defensive to the defensive-offensive phase.

In late autumn, just as Hitler was loudly proclaiming the collapse of Stalingrad to the Herrenvolk, the Soviet armies struck back. In a great enveloping operation from Voronezh to the Caucasus they surrounded Von Paulus's army at Stalingrad and pushed his support back across the Don.

Having stopped Rommel at El Alamein, in June, the troops under Montgomery went over to the attack on 23 October, and by the end of the year were chasing the "Desert Fox" across Tripolitania.

Meanwhile a convoy of more than 500 ships escorted by 350 naval vessels had assembled off Africa and, on 8 November, 1942, Allied troops stormed ashore at Algiers, Oran and Casablanca. The surprise was complete. In little over a week Allied troops were in Tunisia.

Now the world would see how the Wehrmacht would react in defeat.



"Greater Germany" begins to shrink as the Allies go over to the offensive.

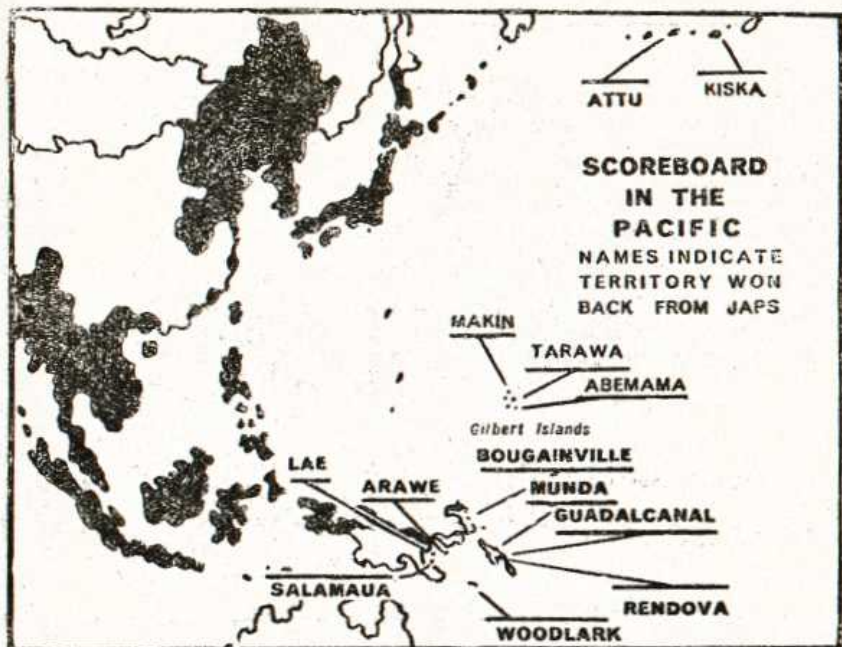
NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1944

BELLS BOOMING out the year of 1943 signaled the end of twelve months that had revived hope in the hearts of peace-loving people all over the world.

On 8 January 1943 an ultimatum was delivered to the German Armies inside the noose at Stalingrad. Von Paulus chose to continue the fight, but within the month he had lost more than 100,000 troops killed and was himself a prisoner of the Red Army. Stalingrad marked high tide in the Soviet for the Wehrmacht—the tide went out as swiftly as it had come in. By the end of the year USSR forces had cleared the right bank of the Dnieper and were on the offensive.

In North Africa combined British, American and French forces crowded Von Arnim and remnants of Rommel's *Afrika Korps* into the north corner of Tunisia. On May 7 the British First Army entered Tunis at 1405 hours. Same day the US II Corps and the French Corps d'Afrique were in Ferryville at 1600, in Bizerte fifteen minutes later. In less than 35 hours, Germans on the II Corps' front had surrendered unconditionally. On the twelfth, Von Arnim was a prisoner. The next day the end of the Battle of Africa was certain.

The first large-scale use of Allied airborne troops took place at 2210 on 9 July, 1943. It opened the invasion



On the Pacific front the Japs are pushed back in a series of strategic drives.

of Sicily and was followed by the largest invasion armada—more than 3200 ships—ever assembled up to that time. In five weeks Sicily was in Allied hands...and Mussolini was out of a job. On 3 September the Italian government headed by Badoglio surrendered unconditionally and the invasion of Italy began.*

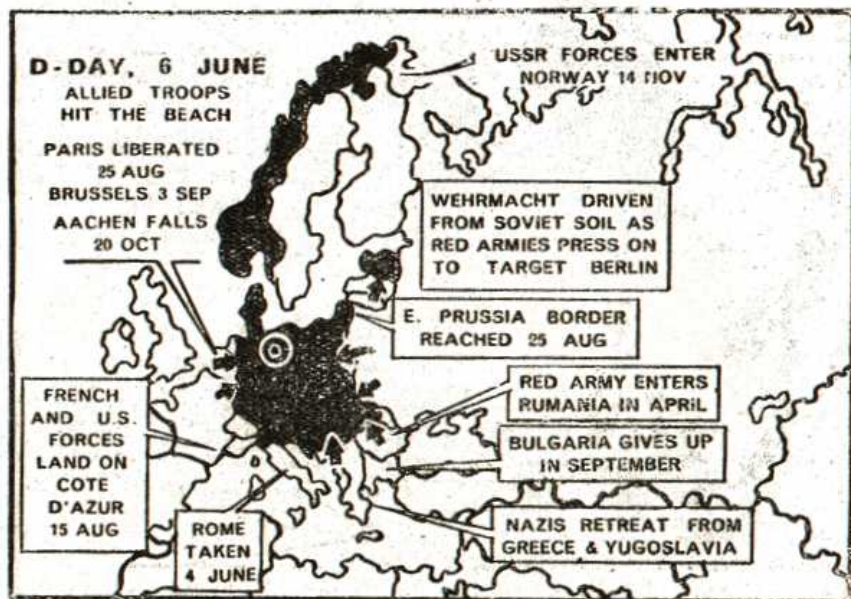
The Japanese threat in the north Pacific was wiped out when Attu was cleaned up in May and the Japs withdrew from Kiska in August. In the South Pacific the Allied score read Guadalcanal, Munda, Salamaua, Lae, Bougainville, Finschhafen, Makin, Tarawa, Abemama. The Jap arrow of conquest had been

caught in mid-air and was being flung back.

On 1 December, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin announced the result of their meeting at Teheran: "We express our determination that our nations shall work together in war and in the peace that will follow... No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies... Our attacks will be relentless and increasing... We came here with hope and determination. We leave here friends in fact, in spirit, and in purpose." That day, German attempts to split the Allies with propaganda and diplomatic pressure suffered a complete defeat.

With the dawn of 1 January 1944 the world woke to the most momentous year of World War II.

* See "Newscope" ARMY TALKS 9 Dec. 44 for summary of Italian campaign.



NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1945

STANDING on the threshold of the forty-fifth year of the twentieth century, the American soldier can look back on 366 days of solid accomplishment. He and his allies have been on the offensive on every front with the exception of central China.

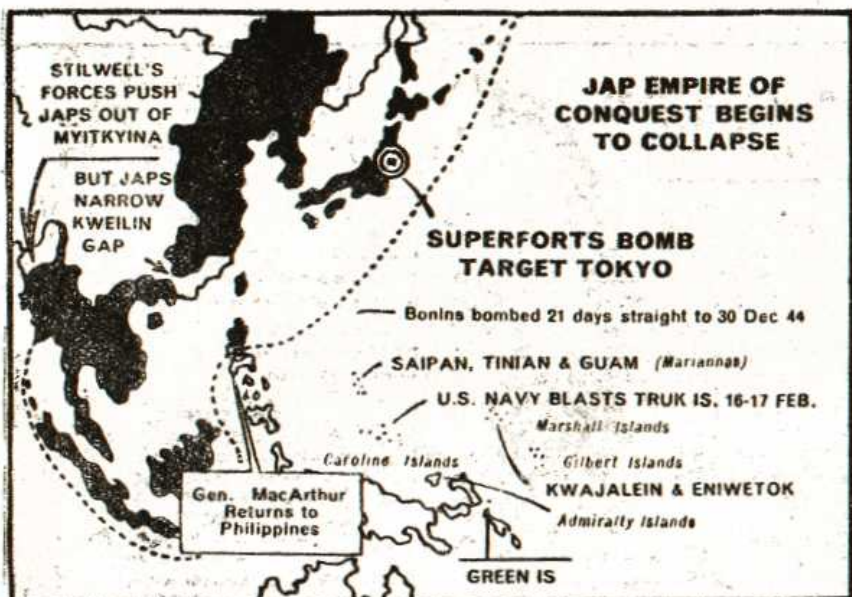
From the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea, the Red Army has moved steadily westward. Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria have been eliminated. The Vistula was crossed in midsummer and the Germans began to learn what it means to fight on home ground. Cutting through Rumania, the Soviets have driven a fatal wedge into Hungary. With the help of much-needed supplies Marshal Tito's guerrilla forces have liberated large sections of their native Yugoslavia.* Except for pockets in northwestern

sections of that country, the whole Balkan peninsula has been freed of Germans.

During January a temporary stalemate followed the Fifth Army's successful stab into the Wehrmacht flank at Anzio. The breakthrough came in May when Cassino, key-point in the German line, was taken. Rome fell on 4 June 44.

Two days later, long awaited news — the invasion of "Fortress Europe" — electrified the world. With prayers on their lips, millions of US citizens anxiously followed developments from D to D-plus-six. With bated breath, they watched a million Allied troops and thousands of tons of materiel land on the beaches of northern France in twenty

* See "Newscope" ARMY TALKS 6 Jan. 45 for summary of Yugoslavian situation.



days. Cheering with pride, they witnessed the brilliant and spectacular drives which, except for small pockets of resistance, had within three months liberated France and Belgium.

On the far side of the globe, the capture of Saipan in July brought about Tojo's downfall. General MacArthur made good his promise to return to the Philippines when American soldiers went ashore at Leyte, 19 October. From various bases Superforts began strategic bombing of Japan's home islands. On the anniversary of Pearl Harbor an earthquake in Japan was an omen of things to come.

At Kweilin, Jap troops had almost cut China in two, but Admiral Katagari, vice-president of Aviation Industries in Japan admitted in a radio broadcast: "The Greater East Asia war on which the rise and fall of Imperial Japan is staked, has entered its final stage. With

the conditions prevailing I consider that it is almost impossible to meet the demands of the armed forces and win final victory."

Looking ahead into 1945, the scene is set for the final act in Europe. Target Berlin is slightly more than 300 miles from the Red Army on the east and from American British and French forces on the west. 300 miles is a long distance when the road is lined with trenches, pillboxes, fortifications, mines. But this time the Allies will be directing — not Hitler.

In the Far East, United Nations forces are gathering to close on target Tokyo. On neither front will the way be easy, the job soft.

Nor will victory be complete when Berlin and Tokyo have fallen. The Allies must win the *war of ideas*, too. Only then can the American soldier — and his family — win the peace.



NEWSCOPE



HOME FRONT USA

967 important wars have been fought in the Western World in the last 25 centuries. Wars before the Industrial Revolution were mainly glorified raids; armies were small; a military objective was a castle. From the 12th Century to the 20th Century, armies increased in size by 52 times. Millions of soldiers could not live only from conquered lands but had to be supplied from great centers of production behind the front. Automotive transport, fast ships, airplanes and radios meant that wars would be more destructive and could not be confined to small areas. A great airplane factory in Munich became as deadly as Nazi soldiers at the front. Total war required the participation of all citizens. Military objectives became nations, not castles. Battles had to be won on the home front as well as on firing lines.

Mothers, fathers, brothers, wives, friends—10 of them for every one of the 12,000,000 Americans in uniform—are waging part of this total war on the Home Front USA.

Labor and Industry have kept their no-strike, no lock-out pledge at the rate of 99% and joined hands to: produce 9,000 planes per month; increase combat ships in the Navy from 369 in 1940 to more than 1,500 in 1944; launch 4,089 cargo ships since Pearl Harbor; provide over 28 billion dollars' worth of Lend-Lease supplies to our Allies; turn out in four years more than 100,000 tanks, 2,000,000

trucks, 10,000,000 rifles and carbines, 3,500,000 tons of bombs and 2,500,000 tons of artillery ammunition.

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone is getting rich in this gigantic production program. Wages of most workers have been frozen and are not allowed to rise beyond 15%, whereas the cost of living has gone up as much as 45%. Strikes meant the loss of less than one-tenth of one percent of all labor time.

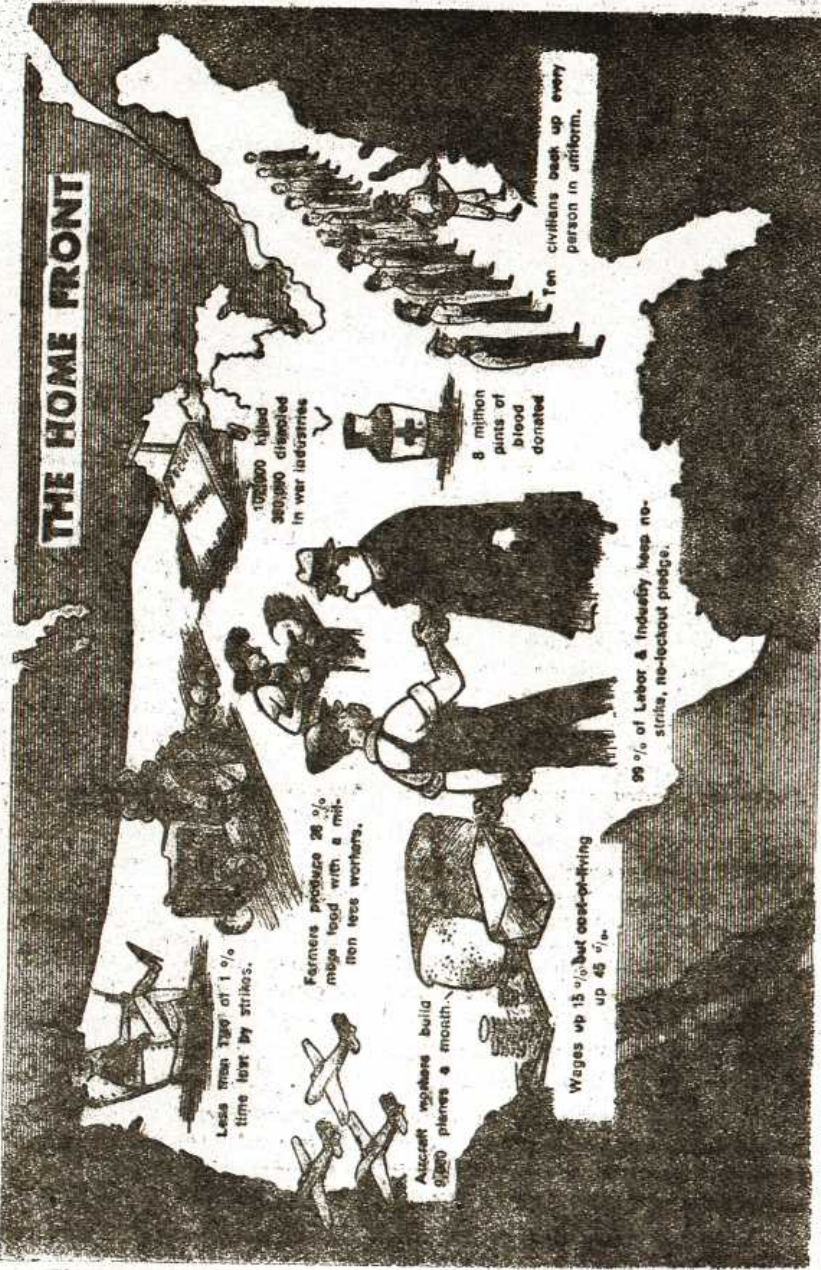
On the Home Front USA: farmers last year produced 28% more food than in any year before the war and did it with a million fewer workers; in addition to almost a quarter of a million women serving as WACS and WAVES, 18,000,000 American women are now performing over 550 different kinds of war jobs; 11,000,000 men and women are performing voluntary work in the Red Cross, USO, etc.; 8,000,000 pints of blood have been donated to help save lives of fighting men; everyone of the six war bond drives has been oversubscribed to help pay for the 250 million dollars that we are daily spending on the war; from 7 Dec 41 to 15 April 44, 102,000 were killed and 350,000 permanently disabled in industry as compared with 102,961 Americans killed and 319,935 wounded on battlefields since 7 Dec 1941.

In this total war, Home Front USA, along with the home fronts of Great Britain and the Soviet Union, out-produced the Axis 2 to 1 in 1942, 3 to 1 in 1943, and 4 to 1 in 1944.

LISTEN: Tune in your American Forces Network for a dramatized version of the week's ARMY TALKS
Time: 1030 Saturday, 27th January, 1945.

Printed for R.M. Stationery Office

THE HOME FRONT



Less than 1% of 1% time lost by strikes.

Farmers produce 28% more food with a million less workers.

Aircraft engineers build 9,200 planes a month.

Wages up 15% but cost-of-living up 45 1/2%.

99% of Labor & Industry keep no-sirits, no-lockout pledge.

100,000 killed 300,000 disabled in war industries

8 million pints of blood donated

Ten civilians beat up every person in uniform.



"Corporal Smithers encourages 100% participation in all his discussion groups."

DISCUSSION groups don't wind up in fist fights or cracked skulls. But you can get caught in a hot crossfire of ideas. And they're all important... important because the ideas discussed today become the actions of tomorrow.

What must be done with Germany after the war? With Japan? With war criminals? What kind of a framework must we build for the peace?

These and other immediate problems are subjects of recent ARMY TALKS. They're ammunition for group discussions. You may or may not agree with them. But you can say whatever you please. You contribute. You learn.

If your outfit is at the front, there's no time for formal discussions. Just the old fashioned bull session. If the outfit is stationary and on a regular schedule, you can have group discussions on *Army training time*. One hour per week is authorized every unit for discussion.*

Tell your Information & Education Officer what you'd like to discuss. He wants your suggestions.

* "Consistent with operational requirements" - Letter, Hq. Etousa. AG 352/2; Op. GA. 30 Apr 44; Subject: Education in Military and Current Affairs.